

**APPENDIX C**

**NATIONAL REGISTER FORM FOR WARD HOUSE (CRS #S-3212)**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**historic name Ward, William H., Houseother names/site number CRS # S-3212**2. Location**street & number Northwest side of Road 244, 1/4 mile East of Road 246 ☐ not for publicationcity or town Georgetown, Georgetown Hundred ☒ vicinitystate Delaware code DE county Sussex code 005 zip code 19947**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
☐ See continuation sheet.☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.☐ removed from the National  
Register.☐ other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Ward, William H., House  
Name of Property

Sussex County, DE  
County and State

### 5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)      Category of Property (Check only one box)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local       | <input type="checkbox"/> district               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State       | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal     | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 |

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	3	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

N/A

none

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

domestic/single dwelling

#### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/subsistence/storage

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Hall-Parlor House

#### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other wood

#### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

### Period of Significance

ca. 1880

### Significant Dates

ca. 1880

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

### Cultural Affiliation

NA

### Architect/Builder

unknown

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

## Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Ward, William H., House  
Name of Property

Sussex County, DE  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 467220 4268340  
Zone Easting Northing  
2         

3           
Zone Easting Northing  
4         

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title M.H.Bowers, Architectural Historian

organization Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. date March 1992

street & number 100 Halsted Street telephone 201/678-1960

city or town East Orange state NJ zip code 07019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name   

street & number    telephone   

city or town    state    zip code   

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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William H. Ward House, Sussex Co. DE

The William H. Ward house is located in rural Georgetown Hundred, on State Road 244 about two miles north of the town of Georgetown. The house is situated amid cultivated fields, at the end of a 600-foot-long gravel lane. To the southeast of the Ward house, between the house and the road, are several modern buildings, erected since 1976. A mobile home, where the current property owners reside, is located on the northeast side of the lane, along with a gable-roofed wooden shed. Opposite the mobile home is a pole-type four-vehicle garage with galvanized metal walls and roof. A large galvanized metal equipment shed has been built around the 19th century William H. Ward house itself.

The William H. Ward house is of frame construction on a brick foundation now enclosed with sheet metal. The house is massed as a 1 1/2 story side-gable main block with a one-story gabled rear wing and lean-to extension that together form a T-shaped plan. A shed-roofed, enclosed porch is located along the southwest wall of the rear wing. The house is clad in weatherboards painted gray. The roof is covered with patterned asphalt shingles; shaped rafter ends are exposed beneath the roof of the main block. The interior gable end chimneys on the main block are relatively large, terminating in splayed, corbelled caps. The stub of a third smaller chimney is located at the gable end of the rear wing.

The house has a three-bay facade oriented to face southeast, with the main entrance in the leftmost (southwest) bay. The door has three horizontal panels in the lower half, a single large window in the upper half. Window openings on the first story are fitted with 2/2 double-hung sash in flat plank frames. Some of the frames still retain simple molding strips beneath drip shelves. On the front and rear elevations of the main block are two-light "eyebrow" windows set close beneath the eaves to illuminate the attic level. These windows are nearly square.

The interior of the main block is arranged in a single-pile, hall-parlor plan. The main entrance opens directly into the "hall", which contains a large brick fireplace against the southwest gable wall. The hearth has been filled in and a stove thimble installed, but the outer edge retains a simple stock molding and mantel shelf set about four feet above the floor. To the right of the fireplace is a small cupboard, and, in the corner, an enclosed winder stair to the attic. Both the cupboard and stair doors have

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four vertical panels; the latter is also fitted with a simple thumbblatch.

The "parlor" features a somewhat smaller chimney breast ornamented with a simple mantel shelf supported on shaped brackets. A thimble indicates prior use with a stove. Whether a hearth is enclosed beneath the paper and plaster could not be determined without destructive investigation.

The walls and ceilings of the hall and parlor are covered with paper applied to plaster on lath bearing marks of a circular saw. Flooring consists of somewhat rough planking varying from four to six inches wide. Window and door frames consist of unmolded planks.

The rear wing contains one room, the walls of which are finished with narrow beaded tongue-in-groove boarding. The room within the leanto section at the extreme rear, as well as the porch, are finished with the same boarding on both walls and ceilings.

The attic is also divided into two rooms, the flooring and wall treatment essentially the same as that of the hall and parlor below. In the northeast room, the chimney breast features an applied mantel shelf and is flanked by closets with four-panel doors.

The house was occupied as late as the mid-1970's, and is in fairly good condition. The only obvious signs of deterioration are the peeling wallpaper and areas where the plaster has fallen away from the lath. The partial enclosure of the house within the metal equipment shed (and the garage installed in the northeast re-entrant angle against the parlor wal) has served to protect the facade and lower portions of the side elevations from weather in recent years. The framing for these modern structures consists simply of dimensioned lumber verticals which have been bolted or nailed to the exterior walls of the house.

Based upon features such as the 2/2 windows, circular-sawed wood (lath, and also the treads and risers of the stair), four-panel doors and stock architectural elements (chiefly the mantel shelves), the main block of the house appears to date to about 1870-1880. The rear wing is a later addition, as evidence by the

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filling of one of the rear windows in the "parlor" from the inside (leaving the window sash and frame visible on the other side), probably dating from around the turn of the century. The porch and rear leanto were either built in association with the wing, or relatively shortly thereafter. There is little evidence of further alteration.

The Ward farmhouse possesses integrity of location, design, workmanship and materials. No major alterations appear to have occurred since the rear wing, porch and leanto were added in the very late 19th or early 20th century. Alterations to the main block at the time of those additions would include replacement of the main roof framing (as suggested by the shaped, exposed rafter ends), interior closure of one of the parlor windows (leaving that feature intact on the outer wall, however), and possibly the filling of the large fireplace in the "hall". The recent equipment shed and garage are clearly visually intrusive elements; however, their construction does not appear to have involved any loss of or measurable damage to the original fabric of the house. Integrity of setting has been diminished by removal of any domestic or agricultural outbuildings that may have once been associated with the house (the U.S.G.S. Georgetown 7.5 minute series map, initially prepared in 1954, indicates that there was at least one outbuilding behind the dwelling), and by the post-1976 erection of the mobile home and large metal garage, and installation of landscaping elements in association with these modern buildings. The overall environment of the house, however, remains rural.

The only contributing element of the property is the Ward House itself. The mobile home, wooden shed and metal garage are located outside the boundary of the eligible property.



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The Ward farmhouse is locally significant under National Register Criterion C, in the area of architecture, within the historic context "Lower Peninsula/Cypress Swamp Zone: Urbanization and Early Suburbanization 1880-1940+/-" of the Delaware State Historic Preservation Plan. Specifically, the Ward farmhouse constitutes an essentially unaltered example of the single-pile, hall-parlor plan house. This plan was utilized in Delaware from the mid-17th century onward, persisting in the lower regions of the state through much of the 19th century. The Ward house possesses the distinctive characteristics of the type, as described by Herman (1987:20). Its "hall" is entered directly from the outside, and contains a corner stair to the upper floor, and a fireplace larger than that of any other room in the house. The "parlor" is entered only from the hall. The relatively late date of the house (ca. 1880) is indicative of the general conservatism that was characteristic of rural domestic architectural practices in lower Delaware. The subsequent addition of a rear wing is consistent with the relocation of service activities from the front rooms of dwellings to rear areas, permitting a more formalized use of the "hall". Of additional interest is the 1 1/2 story configuration of the main block, since dwellings of two stories are dominant in the 19th century architectural development of rural Delaware. Rear ells of 1 1/2 stories were not uncommon, but the utilization of the half-story for the main body of the house is relatively unusual. At least two other examples of the 1 1/2 story configuration from the same general time period have been recorded in the area, one on Road 244 west of the Ward house (CRS # S-3213) and the Jacob Sharp house on U.S. Route 113 north of Georgetown (CRS # S-8449).

The house is historically associated with the eastern portion of the present Eskridge tract. The deed history of the property has been traced to 1866, when Asa Sharp sold a 125-acre tract in Georgetown Hundred to David Reynolds for \$1000. The parcel was among several owned by Jacob Sharp when he died in 1849, leaving Asa Sharp among his heirs. David Reynolds held the 125-acre tract until 1870, at which time he sold it for \$600 to Levin Pepper (Sussex County (hereinafter SC) Deeds 83: 479; 83:482; SC Probate Record A98:75).

In 1870, William H. Ward was a 29-year-old farm laborer residing in Cedar Creek Hundred. His household included his 24-year-old wife, Orpha (whom he had married in 1864), and their daughter Eunice,

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then two years old (U.S. Bureau of Census 1870; Delaware Marriage Records, Vol. 48: 98). Ten years later, in 1880, William Ward purchased the 125-acre tract in Georgetown Hundred from Levin Pepper for \$700 (SC Deeds 92: 585). In the Federal population census of that year, Ward had moved to his new farm, and had three more children, including Robert, 4 and Frank, 1 (U.S. Bureau of Census 1880). The Sussex County tax assessment for 1880-1884 indicated that Ward owned a horse, cow, pair of oxen, and a sow and pigs. The small number of livestock and the presence of the pair of oxen suggests that Ward's livelihood was based on crops, rather than livestock (agricultural census data for 1880 and subsequent decades were unavailable at the time of this study). By the 1888-1892 assessment, however, oxen were no longer included in the listing of Ward's livestock.

William Ward had died by the time the 1892-96 assessment was undertaken. His wife, Orpha, appears to have inherited the farm. In the 1900 Federal population census, she was listed as the head of a household that now included only two children, Frank, 20, and George, 17. In November of 1905, Frank Ward was married to Lillie M. Wilson (Delaware Marriage Records, Vital Statistics, Folders 26-C and 9, 1905). Their first child (unnamed in the Birth Index at the Hall of Records) was born in August of the following year. As of the 1910 Federal population census, Frank and Lillie Ward were not living on the family farm. In 1912, however, Orpha Ward and Frank's siblings conveyed their interest in the farm to him (SC Deeds 182: 586). The Sussex County tax assessment for 1913-1916 lists Frank Ward as owner of 119 acres (his father had previously sold six acres out of the farm), two horses, one mule and one sow.

Frank Ward died in 1942, leaving his wife, three married daughters and a son. The children granted Lillie Ward 58 acres of the farm for her to occupy for the rest of her natural life. Lillie Ward died in 1974, ending this life estate. Two years later, the Ward heirs sold the property to the present owners, Glen and Linda Eskridge. The deed included a proviso for one Arthur Donovan to live in the house for the rest of his natural life, with the right to have a garden and to garage one automobile (SC Deeds 339: 233; 793: 264). By the time the Ward farmhouse was inventoried by the Sussex County historic preservation office in 1983, it was no longer occupied. The equipment shed that partially encloses the house was constructed in 1987.

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Herman, Bernard L.

1987 Architecture and Rural Life in Central Delaware, 1700-1900. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville.

Records Consulted at the Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware

Birth Index

Marriage Record Index

Probate Record Index

Sussex County Tax Assessments, 1880-1916

Records Consulted at the Sussex County Courthouse, Georgetown, Delaware

Deeds

Orphans' Court Records

Probate Records

United States Bureau of Census

1870 Ninth Census of the United States. Population Schedules. Delaware, Sussex County. Microfilm on file at Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

1880 Tenth Census of the United States. Population Schedules. Delaware, Sussex County. Microfilm on file at Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

1900 Twelfth Census of the United States. Population Schedules. Delaware, Sussex County. Microfilm on file at Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

1910 Thirteenth Census of the United States. Population Schedules. Delaware, Sussex County. Microfilm on file at Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.

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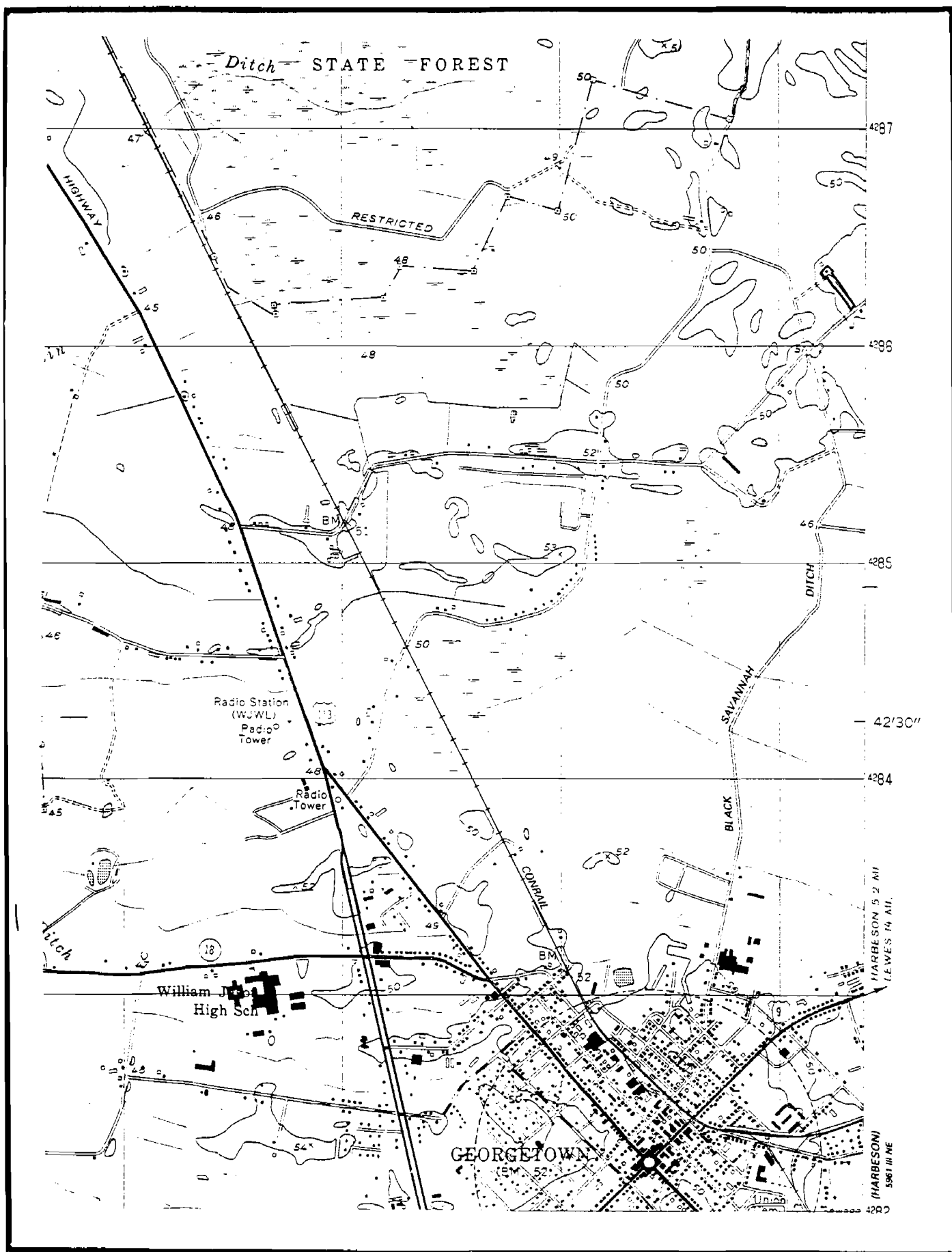
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the north edge of the pavement of Road 244, 15 feet southwest of the center line of the gravel driveway leading to the Ward house, then extending 600 feet northwest and parallel to the gravel driveway, then 35 feet to the southwest, then 150 feet to the northwest, then 100 feet to the northeast, then 150 feet to the southeast, then 35 feet southwest to a point 15 feet northeast of the center line of the gravel driveway, then 600 feet southeast and parallel to the gravel driveway to the north edge of the pavement of Road 244, then southwest along the edge of pavement 30 feet to place of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the eligible property includes the Ward House and the gravel farm lane leading to the house, thereby preserving the historic relationship of the house to the road. Since there remain no historic outbuildings or landscape features (apart from the drive), the boundary encompasses all contributing elements. The boundary of the eligible property is intended to exclude the modern mobile home, shed and garage, which do not contribute to the significance of the resource.



WILLIAM H. WARD HOUSE  
SITE PLAN AND BOUNDARY  
DEFINITION

0 150 300 Feet (Approx.)



TAX PARCEL  
1-35-10-8

TAX PARCEL  
1-35-10-9

WARD HOUSE (C)

SHED

MOBILE HOME

GARAGE

BOUNDARY  
OF ELIGIBLE  
PROPERTY